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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you on a few issues in relation to school provision and safeguarding our young people. In Mr White's letter on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May he explained how we are moving into phase 3 which includes increasing the number of students attending school and increasing access to online learning including live tutorial lessons. As we increase the contact with students in school and on-line, we will remove the weekly phone contact as in phase 1 and 2. However, it is important you know we are not stopping our support. Please contact your child's tutor, senior pastoral leader, or phone me to discuss any concerns or request any support we can provide either in school or through other organisations. Your calls will be received in confidence and without judgement and we will do our best to support you and your family.

Following the death of George Floyd in America there has been an outpouring of upset, hurt and distress in many communities across America and the world. There have been demonstrations, calling for justice and an end to racism and discrimination here in London and others are planned. I know members of our school community will want to attend these demonstrations despite the lockdown restrictions. There is a statement from Camden council on our website which includes guidance on how to keep safe whilst demonstrating.

We are aware as a school that we have an important role in providing an opportunity for students and staff to reflect and think about these events and to challenge ourselves about the causes of racism and discrimination. We are looking at how we best to engage students and staff in this important work in the context of a partially opened school. As a starting point Ms Maclennan, PSHE lead, is sending a detailed and informative newsletter to all students and has planned a PSHE lesson on this issue. I encourage you to read this and discuss with your son daughter.

Last Monday the government eased some aspects of the lockdown restrictions and plan further easing in the coming weeks. The opportunity to leave your house more frequently, visit family and friends, outdoors, is very welcome. However, it is also important that we still follow the social distancing rules and avoid unnecessary trips. Large gatherings should be avoided. Please continue to talk to your sons and daughters about the need to do this to keep themselves, their families and the community safe. I appreciate this can be a difficult conversation, particularly when we see that some other people, young and old, do not always follow this guidance. Choosing to do the right thing is not always easy but by working together we keep each other safe. Please read the message below from the Camden Safer Schools Team:

*"Government restrictions to control the spread of Coronavirus remain in place. The collective public effort over the past two months has meant police officers have only rarely had to step in to enforce these regulations and even less so in the past few weeks. I want to take this opportunity to thank you and your families for doing all you can to keep everyone safe.*

*We are confident the vast majority of young people in Camden will continue to act responsibly. As many of us are now able to spend even more time away from home, undertake more activities and meet up with more people than before, we all need to do our part to remain within the regulations. Our aim is to continue to encourage and support our communities in doing this.*

*However, there was a recent large gathering of young people in and around the area of Hampstead Heath, where some were assaulted. Police attended to disperse crowds and arrests were made. There has also been a series of robberies at this location which has included school age victims. Please can I request you speak to and discourage your children from attending this area, not only to protect themselves from the risk of Coronavirus, but to protect themselves from potentially becoming victim to any criminality. Thank you”*

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you for all your efforts in managing to support your child’s home learning in such challenging circumstances. Home learning is not easy in the best of times. I appreciate that many families will have multiple pressures and challenges at this current time, making home learning all the more difficult. Please don’t worry if it is not working as well as you want it to, we know it is very difficult. Please do contact the school if you feel you would like support. We are here to work with you to get the best for your child.

Best wishes and take care.

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